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Productivity losses and gains in cost-effectiveness analysis: why does it matter?

Cost-effectiveness analyses (CEA) are used to assess the value for money of alternative approaches to a given treatment, providing a comparison of the relative costs and outcomes. This helps guide decisions about funding and resource allocation.

The costs included in a CEA or cost utility analysis (CUA) depend on the perspective. A healthcare or public payer perspective is limited to direct healthcare costs such as costs of treatment, hospitalisation outpatient visits etc. A societal perspective may consider other non-healthcare costs such as transportation, or losses and gains in productivity when undergoing treatment. Depending on the perspective taken, the incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER), will be different. This then has flow on effects when decisions regarding funding and resource allocation have to be made.

The additional costs included in a societal perspective can vary, some guidelines refer specifically to including productivity lost (or gained) by patients and/or their families. Two components that are often considered are absenteeism, time off required due to an illness or treatment, or presenteeism, losses or gains due to loss of productivity while at work due to an illness or treatment, without actually taking time off work. Some CEAs also consider unemployment or premature mortality.

Losses or gains in productivity are typically calculated in two ways: 1. human capital approach: costs associated with productivity losses/gains are estimated by multiplying lost work time by discounted gross wage or, 2. friction cost approach: costs associated with productivity losses are estimated by multiplying the lost work hours during

the period that the patient must take of work and when a new employee can be hired and trained to replace them by the discounted gross wages for the patient. The outcome of included productivity losses or gains can be favourable i.e. improving the health condition of patients can result in improved productivity and lower mortality, or perhaps the patient has to take time off work to undergo treatment resulting in productivity losses.

Historically only a small proportion of CEA and CUA have included productivity losses/gains. Yuasa et al. conducted a systematic review of CEAs of drug interventions to summarise the types of costs that were included, how they were calculated and their impact on study outcomes. They found that absenteeism was most widely used to estimate productivity losses. Reduced productivity of caregivers was not often assessed. Presenteeism was often measured in oncological conditions, reflecting the debilitating nature of this disease. Analysis in oncological conditions also assessed premature mortality costs (i.e. lost productivity associated with premature death and not being able to continue work until the end of one's working life).

Assessing the impact of productivity losses/gains in CEA and CUA is important to accurately assess the value of new treatments. In terms of cancer, these treatments can have a favourable impact on productivity due to improving clinical outcomes and reduced mortality, or a negative impact due to time taken off work, or early retirement. At the end of the day we must remember that productivity losses are one of many indirect healthcare costs that can be considered in a CEA or CUA that takes a societal perspective.

Contributed by: Lutfun Hossain

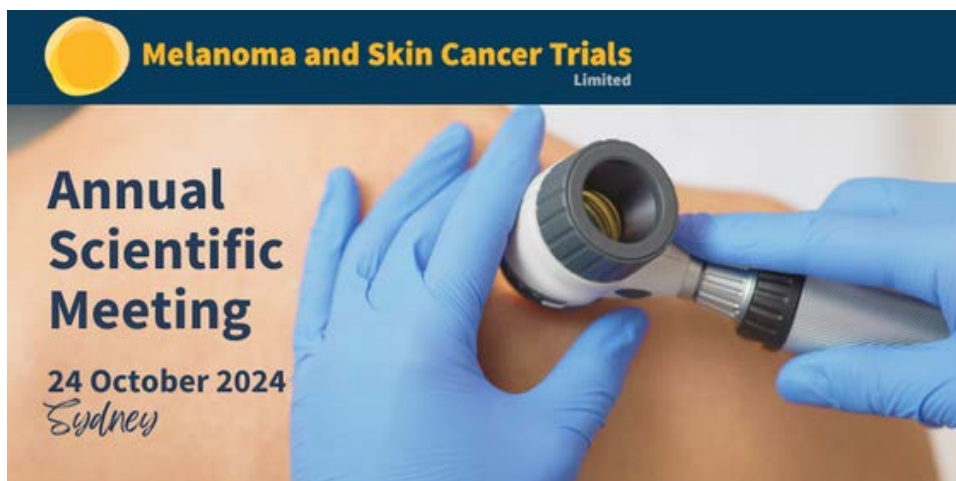
Source: Yuasa, A. et al. (2020) 'Use of productivity loss/gain in cost-effectiveness analyses for drugs: A systematic review', *PharmacoEconomics*, 39(1), pp. 81-97. doi:10.1007/s40273-020-00986-4.

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Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials (MASC Trials)



Save the date – 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting

The 2024 Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials Annual Scientific Meeting will be held as a satellite meeting of the Australasian Melanoma Conference at the Hyatt Regency, Sydney. The full-day program will cover our clinical trials, consumer participation, and explore new collaborations.

Key dates:

- 24 October 2024 - Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials Annual Scientific Meeting
- 25 – 26 October 2024 - Australasian Melanoma Conference

[Learn more.](#)

Melanoma Margins Trial reaches major milestone

The Melanoma Margins Trial 'MelMarT-II' has reached its halfway milestone for enrolling participants. This is a significant achievement for the international trial, which aims to enrol almost 3,000 participants across 8 countries. The Institute of Oncology Ljubljana in Slovenia helped us achieve this recruitment milestone. Slovenia, ranking 9th globally in melanoma rates, is a crucial location for gathering data for the trial.

The Melanoma Margins Trial aims to determine whether a 1 cm or a 2 cm margin is the most effective surgical treatment option for stage II melanoma.

Coordinated by Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials, this international trial is gathering data from patients across Australia, the United Kingdom, the USA, Canada, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Slovenia.

[Learn more.](#)

New Consumer Advisory Panel members



CONSUMER ADVISORY PANEL

The Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials Consumer Advisory Panel has welcomed two new members - John Mason and Gemene Heffernan-Smith.

In early 2022, John Mason was diagnosed with Merkel cell carcinoma. He participated in our I-MAT trial and spoke about his experiences of the trial at our 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting. His firsthand experiences of Merkel cell carcinoma and his involvement in the trial make him an invaluable addition to our Consumer Advisory Panel.

Gemene's journey began in 2017 when she was diagnosed with an early melanoma. However, 3.5 years later, her diagnosis progressed to stage IV. Gemene participated in a clinical trial, which led to a remarkable complete metabolic response. Having navigated through the challenges of tough diagnoses and clinical trials, Gemene brings a unique consumer perspective to the table.

[Learn more.](#)

www.masc.org.au

TRAINING & MENTORING

CREST STRUCTURED TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Being hands on is a great way to build skills and knowledge. This applies to building skills in the use of **health economics methods** for the analysis of clinical trials and similar projects.

To facilitate that learning, CREST has a program of Structured Training Opportunities available to members of Cancer Australia Clinical Trial Groups (CTG).

Through this structured training opportunity you will receive:

- Guidance from a CREST health economist for your eligible project
- 30 to 40 hours of mentoring (typically across a 3 month period)
- Face-to-face session at the CREST office (complemented by online, phone and email contact)

If you are a member of a CTG, have a project with a health economics component, and are interested in discussing whether it might be suitable as a Structured Training Opportunity project, please contact us:

crest@uts.edu.au

Please note: CREST is unable to sponsor individuals for participation in these training opportunities.

Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group (AGITG)



The study will continue to recruit towards its global goal of 450 patients. Our NEO-IMPACT trial has enrolled 60% of their target accrual. NEO-IMPACT is investigating a combination of chemotherapy and immunotherapy prior to surgery for patients with early-stage pancreatic cancer.

[View all open AGITG trials](#)

Stay up to date with the AGITG

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) or [@GICancer](#) on Twitter/X for more updates.

International Invited Faculty at the ASM: 13–16 November, Christchurch

Register now for the 25th AGITG Annual Scientific Meeting at Christchurch, Aotearoa New Zealand, and don't miss out on our prestigious Invited Faculty speaking on the topics of:

- *Strategies for cost awareness and cost-effective trial design*
 - Prof Leonard Saltz, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York
- *Navigating a path to equity in GI cancer research: Clinical research inclusion and recruitment of diverse patient cohorts*
 - A/Prof Katherine Garman, Duke University, Durham
- *The rising role of radiotherapy in liver cancer and other new advances in GI malignancy radiation trials*
 - Prof Laura Dawson, University of Toronto, Toronto
- *Novel strategies for clinical trials: A phase II/III pancreatic cancer trial*
 - Prof Diane Simeone, New York University, New York

We hope to see you there! Find out more: asm.gicancer.org.au



AGITG Preceptorship in Biliary Tract Cancer and Hepatocellular Carcinoma

On 25–26 August, the AGITG hosted the Preceptorship at Crowne Plaza in Coogee, Sydney. Convened by medical oncologists Associate Professor Lara Lipton and Associate Professor Amitesh Roy, the two-day workshop focussed on state-of-the-art management of biliary tract cancer and hepatocellular carcinoma.

The event welcomed senior trainees and junior faculty from across Australia and New Zealand, with multidisciplinary discussions featured on both days. Thank you to our Convenors and Preceptors, and thank you to AstraZeneca for sponsoring this educational event.

[Read the workshop recap.](#)

Research news

At ASCO 2023, two AGITG trial posters were accepted: PALEO and ASCEND. PALEO is a quality-of-life study which aims to alleviate symptoms of dysphagia in patients with oesophageal cancer, aligning with the meeting's theme. ASCEND is a pancreatic cancer study aiming to investigate the addition of a new chemotherapy treatment to standard-of-care chemotherapy for patients with untreated metastatic PDAC.

Clinical trials at the AGITG are continuing to recruit well. INTEGRATE IIb, a phase III study for advanced refractory gastro-oesophageal cancer, reached their target accrual for Australia and New Zealand this month.

Cancer Quality of Life Expert Service Team (CQUEST)

[Face-to-face consumer workshop | 2 Feb 2024](#)

Patient and public involvement in the design of studies is vital for ensuring that research is relevant and meaningful to people affected by cancer.

Early next year on **Friday, 2 February 2024**, CQUEST will host a free face-to-face workshop for CCTG consumer/community representatives at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS).

This workshop will cover ways of measuring, analysing and interpreting quality of life in cancer clinical trials, with examples and group activities to help them review the PROM components of CCTG trials at concept development workshops.

Spots are limited, if you are interested in attending, please speak to the Executive Officer of your CCTG.



Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG)

ANZGOG Trial Update

ANZGOG is fortunate to have active and engaged members working locally and globally to bring new trials to Australia and New Zealand for our community with a lived experience of gynaecological cancer.

ANZGOG clinical trials open to recruitment:

- ovarian cancer trial:
HyNOVA in collaboration with the NHRMC Clinical Trials Centre
- endometrial cancer trials:
i. ENDO-3 in collaboration with Queensland Centre for Gynaecological Cancer and
ii. ADELE in collaboration with the University of Sydney, NHRMC Clinical Trials Centre.
- combined ovarian + endometrial cancer trials:
i. PARAGON II in collaboration with the University of Sydney, NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre.
ii. EPOCH in collaboration with Imperial College London, UK and Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Canada.
- quality of life/end of life study:
PEACE in collaboration with the Nordic Society of Gynaecological Oncology – Clinical Trial Unit

ANZGOG clinical trials in start-up:

- Three endometrial cancer trials: **DOMENICA**, **XPORT-EC-42** and **TAPER**
- one ovarian cancer trial: **ROSELLA**
- one survey study: **EXPRESSION IX**

For more information on ANZGOG's trials, please visit [our website](#).

[#AdvancingResearchSavingLives](#)

Save the Date – ANZGOG 2024 ASM Wellington New Zealand

Dates: Mon 22 April – Wed 24 April 2024
Location: Wellington, New Zealand

We are so glad to be heading to New Zealand in 2024.



This will be inaugural New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting for ANZGOG. We recommend you book now and join us for this landmark event with three outstanding international guest speakers:

- **Prof Emma Crosbie** | Gynaecological Oncologist, University of Manchester, UK
- **Prof Akila Viswanathan** | Radiation Oncologist, Johns Hopkins Medicine, USA
- **Prof Isobelle Ray-Coquard** | Medical Oncologist, Cancer Research Center of Lyon, France

Convening the ANZGOG Annual Scientific Meeting 2024 are Dr. Michelle Harrison (Australia) and Dr. Bryony Simcock (New Zealand). Together with the Program Committee they are ensuring this will be an outstanding opportunity for networking and knowledge exchange. Save the date and start planning your travel arrangements today.

[For more information.](#)

ANZGOG unveils its 2023-2028 Strategic Plan – Advancing research, saving lives

ANZGOG has unveiled its new five-year strategic plan, including a new vision:



ANZGOG's updated mission is to improve outcomes and quality of life for everyone with a lived experience of gynaecological cancer by conducting and promoting clinical trials and multidisciplinary research.

ANZGOG Strategic Goals 2023-2028:

1. **CATALYSE** innovative, practice-changing cooperative gynaecological cancer research.
2. **EXPAND** the reach, relevance, and impact of our research
3. **ENGAGE** collaborate and share expertise and insights.
4. **SUSTAIN** a vibrant and efficient research organisation.

These four goals are powered by strategies and priorities, including embedding translational research and research translation as inherent aspects of our research, to drive outcomes and can be reviewed in detail in the [strategic plan document](#). Together, with our 1,300 members and our community supporters ANZGOG continues its work with a focus on our core values of Excellence, Impact, Equity, Collaboration and Openness.

Read more: [ANZGOG Strategic Plan Document](#)



Prof Clare Scott AM
MB BS PhD Melbourne FRACP
Chair | ANZGOG

Journal of Medical Radiation Sciences (JMRS) invites authors to submit articles to a special themed issue on Value Based Medical Radiation Sciences

BACKGROUND

Value based healthcare is ensuring healthcare is delivered to maximise outcomes that matter the most to the people receiving and delivering the healthcare, and balancing the costs to achieve those outcomes. A value based approach is not about "budget-cutting" but rather focussed on ensuring that the care we provide is of value to patients, health care professionals and the health system. The demand for medical radiation sciences (MRS) services, including medical imaging and radiation therapy, is expected to rise as advances in medicine has led to earlier disease detection and treatment. Coupled with the continued introduction of new MRS technologies, increased demand has implications on experiences in delivering and receiving care as well as costs. Value based MRS practices can ensure that we maximise the resources available to deliver care that meets the needs of the patient/population, and the health services/systems. This special edition will explore value based MRS practices through the perspectives of the patient, MRS professional and the health system.

THEME

MRS professionals play a significant role in the healthcare system and it is important that we look for ways to provide care that is valuable to the patient, health professionals, and the health system. Value based MRS provides a broad scope of possible avenues to explore and report on. Both quantitative and qualitative work will be sought for inclusion to present an issue that encompasses a holistic view of value in MRS.

TOPICS

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Assessing the value of new technologies, compared to standard practices (e.g. use of AI-enabled diagnostic imaging equipment to reduce repeated images, decreasing both dose and time for the patient)
- Patient-centred initiatives (e.g. evaluating and incorporating patient preferences in MRS departmental planning)
- Improvements in care delivery (e.g. a dedicated radiation therapist coordinator role to increase patient understanding and compliance)
- Changes in education programs and professional practices (e.g. advanced practice roles impacting value-based care through increased patient throughput; or virtual simulation in the university sector preparing MRS students for real-world scenarios)

All manuscript types will be considered, including original research articles, review papers and case studies. Before submission, authors should carefully read over the Journal's Author Guidelines, which are available at: www.jmrsjournal.com

On the cover page/letter, please state that your manuscript is to be considered for the special themed issue.



jmrsjournal.com

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
31 JULY 2024

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WILEY

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To find out more and contribute to this special edition visit jmrsjournal.com

ASM Wrap Up

It was great to see so many of our members in-person at our TROG 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting in Adelaide. The event was made possible by the hard work of our Organising and Program Committees, who helped to orchestrate a seamless ASM event featuring insights from leaders in radiation medicine.

Across the four-day event, TROG hosted over 75 speakers from Australia, New Zealand and further abroad, discussing the ever-evolving landscape of cancer research and radiation medicine including palliative care, big data, artificial intelligence, machine learning, emerging technologies and so much more.

TROG hosted two workshops this year, the Clinical Research Education Workshop (CREW) and the Technical Research Workshop (TRW), with RANZCR facilitating the SMART workshop.

- **Clinical Research Education Workshop**

This year's workshop was structured as a training day to give the opportunity to attendees to dive deeper into topics such as source documentation, the study coordination process, managing remote activities and working as a team to get through day to day issues such as noncompliance, overwhelm in the workplace and onboarding of new staff.

This session hosted by Eleanor Allan from the Caledonian Clinical Training Group was interactive, welcoming, and structured to suit all levels of experience.

- **Technical Research Workshop**

The Disney theme of this workshop highlighted the amazing and sometimes seemingly "magical" advancements in technology and treatments in radiation oncology.



There were many interesting talks, ranging from ethics in Artificial Intelligence, to TROG infrastructure needs, to the future of proton therapy clinical trials. This year the TRW included a panel discussion with live polling.

We are very appreciative of all our speakers and attendees who joined our event, virtually or in-person, from all corners of the world to share their work and developments in radiation medicine.

Our team is already looking forward to our 2024 ASM, which we are excited to announce will be hosted at the Newcastle Exhibition and Conference Centre in Newcastle, NSW from 12-15 March 2024.

Trek4TROG 2023

In 2023, we will be hosting the Trek4TROG Kosi Challenge. This will be an amazing opportunity to climb the highest point in Australia, Mt Kosciuszko while helping to fundraise for TROG Cancer Research.

Trek4TROG is a unique opportunity to showcase your support alongside a team of trekkers. The team we are looking for will consist of 50 people, with a target of raising \$25,000.

Curious to find out more, visit our webpage for more information: <https://trog.com.au/support-us/trek4trog-kosi-challenge/>

DID YOU KNOW?

CREST RESOURCES

Did you know we have a dedicated section on our website full of resources to help investigators incorporate health economics and pharmacoeconomic analyses into trial protocols?

On our page we have available:

- Proforma documents for conducting an economic evaluation
- How to collect data
- How to estimate QoL scores
- Various factsheets and templates
- Video recordings of past workshops and webinars such as using Medicare data and HTA
- A number of useful links

If you have any suggestions for resources, please feel free to discuss with us by emailing crest@uts.edu.au

Resources >

Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group (ANZUP)

Some recent ANZUP news highlights

ANZUP's trial portfolio continues to grow. We currently have 5 ANZUP-led and 1 co-badged trial in recruitment, as well as 17 in follow-up. In July our international prostate cancer study, DASL-HiCaP (ANZUP 1801), closed after reaching full recruitment of 1,106. A great feat for a trial that opened during COVID-19.

During the quarter our RAMPART (ANZUP 1606) and EVOLUTION (ANZUP 2001) studies also closed to recruitment. You can [read more about our trials on our website here](#).

ASCO 2023 Annual Meeting – June 2023

In June 2023 at the ASCO Annual Meeting - ANZUP presented five posters:

- Effects of [177Lu] Lu-PSMA-617 on overall survival in TheraP (ANZUP 1603) versus VISION randomized trials: An Exploratory Analysis,
- P3BEP (ANZUP 1302),
- BCG+MM (ANZUP 1301),
- GUIDE (ANZUP 1903) and
- CLIMATE (ANZUP 1906).

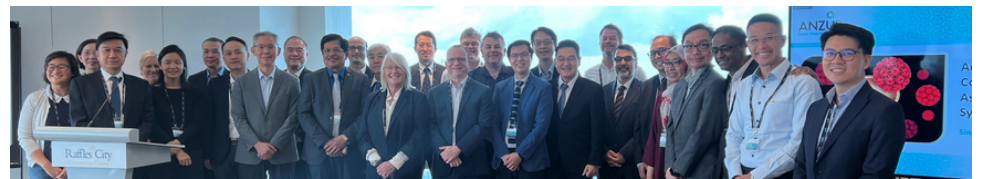
#ANZUP23 ASM

The ANZUP ASM was held in Melbourne in July, led by Co-Convenors Ben Tran and Renu Eapen. The ASM provided a platform to discuss and present the latest updates in GU cancer treatment, research and supportive care and to learn more about existing and planned ANZUP trials.

We were fortunate to have more than 80 speakers, panellists, session chairs and poster presenters, including a stellar international faculty: Andrea Apolo, Laurien Buffart, Ananya Choudhury, Darren Feldman, Rebecca Martin, Sima Porten, Bertrand Tombal, and Alex Wyatt.

You can watch some videos from the ASM on the ANZUP YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8e5-pPWiac4dTDAu7kwSIA>.

Our #ANZUP24 ASM is being held in the Gold Coast in July 2024, ably led by Matt Roberts and Aaron Hansen.



ANZUP APCCC Satellite Symposium – July 2023, Singapore

The Symposium brought together close to 30 experts from 14 APAC countries to discuss the real-world application of consensus statements from the APCCC held in St Gallen in 2022. A paper is being drafted by Dr Alison Evans, based on the summary of the discussions at the Symposium with input from our experts, and will be submitted for publication in the BJUI.

Sydney Below the Belt Pedalthon Tuesday 31 October 2023, Eastern Creek Motorway

The Below the Belt Pedalthon was founded in 2013 to increase awareness of below the belt (testicular, prostate, bladder, penile and kidney) cancers and raise vital funds to improve the lives of so many patients through clinical trials research. You can [find more information on our website](#).

Best of GU Oncology Evening Symposium Wednesday 15 November, Customs House Brisbane

The Best of GU Evening Symposium is a collaboration between ANZUP and the Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand (USANZ). It features highlights from the ANZUP ASM and other GU meetings during the year, including the latest management, and clinical trials research in urogenital and prostate cancers.

Registration is FREE for ANZUP or USANZ members, to register please go to our website:

<https://anzup.org.au/best-of-gu-oncology-evening-symposium/>.

Rapid Fire GU Cancer (non-prostate) Program Friday 24 - Saturday 25 November 2023, Como Hotel Melbourne

The ANZUP Rapid Fire GU Cancer is a multidisciplinary educational program. The program has been designed to offer trainees and junior consultants' insight into the evolution of prostate cancer management and evidence behind contemporary clinical practice. Learn more on our website:

<https://anzup.org.au/anzup-rapidfire/>.

2023 Annual Report

Our ANZUP 2023 Annual Report was released in July, reflecting on our activities and achievements of the past year. You can read the report online here: <https://anzup.org.au/annual-report-2023/>.



Cancer Symptom Trials (CST)

Facing Fatigue seminar series Building researcher capacity in cancer fatigue

Commencing in July 2023, Cancer Symptom Trials (CST) is hosting national and international presenters with expertise in fatigue as part of the Facing Fatigue Seminar Series.

Over the next 12 months, this free, online seminar series aims to build researcher and clinician capacity to better manage fatigue for people living with, or after cancer.

The next seminar will be held on Wednesday, 4 October 2023.

Sign up to one or more sessions in the series – it's up to you!



The banner features the UTS Cancer Symptom Trials (CST) logo on the left. On the right, a circular image shows a person sitting on a bed, looking thoughtful. The text reads: 'Facing Fatigue', 'Building researcher capacity in cancer fatigue', 'Virtual Seminar Series | Commencing July 2023', and 'uts.edu.au/facingfatigue'. Small text at the bottom right includes 'ONCOOS Provider No. 00099F | TEQSA Provider ID. PRV12066'.

Find out more and register:
uts.edu.au/facingfatigue



UPCOMING WORKSHOP

CREST virtual workshop

CREST will be hosting a free, virtual workshop, "Understanding Health Economics in Cancer Research" on Friday, 24 November 2023.

If you missed out on our in-person workshop in June, this is your opportunity to attend our introductory health economics workshop.

This half-day virtual workshop is for those working or interested in cancer research who may encounter health economics in research papers or policy documents, or who would like to consider how health economics may be incorporated into their own practice or research.

Participants will be sent some pre-reading and videos prior to the workshop. In order to get the most out of the session, we highly encourage participants to complete all pre-work prior to attending the workshop.



The banner features the UTS CREST logo at the top right. The main text reads: 'VIRTUAL WORKSHOP', 'UNDERSTANDING HEALTH ECONOMICS IN CANCER RESEARCH', and 'FRIDAY, 24 Nov 2023 | 9am - 12.00pm'. On the right, a circular image shows a laptop, a pen, and a notebook on a desk. Small text at the bottom right includes 'CRICOS Provider No. 00099F | TEQSA Provider ID. PRV12066'.

Workshop program:

- Introduction to health economics and economic evaluation in research
- QALY calculations
- ICER calculations
- Case studies
- Application of health economics
- Q&A

For more information or to register, please visit the [event link](#).

Please note: the Zoom link will be emailed to all participants the week of the workshop.

For questions, please contact crest@uts.edu.au.

Shining a light on radiotherapy cancer treatment in Australia

In Australia, there is one new cancer diagnosis every four minutes. Cancer is the leading cause of death, responsible for three in every ten deaths. In high-income countries, the cost of cancer ranges from 8.4 to 18% of a country's gross domestic product. In Australia in 2015-16, \$10.1 billion was spent on diagnosing and treating cancer.

Best practice cancer care may include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy (RT) and immunotherapy. In Australia it is estimated that one out of every five cancer patients who should receive RT in line with best practice care do not receive it. In particular, 62% of eligible prostate cancer patients and 48% of eligible lung cancer patients, do not receive RT. Lung cancer has the highest mortality rate of any cancer in Australia and is estimated to cost the economy over \$300 million in direct (health care) and indirect (productivity) costs per year. Prostate cancer has the third highest mortality rate of any cancer, and costs the Australian economy approximately \$1.4 billion per year.

In recent years, RT has become more targeted with the introduction of stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT) and intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT). These have resulted in reduced adverse effects, shorter courses of RT, and reduced personal costs through less appointments and interruptions to work/personal commitments.

Despite this, RT is underutilised in Australia and eligible cancer patients are not always offered or received access to it. Underutilisation is particularly prevalent in lung and prostate cancers. Reasons for low access can include communication barriers, cultural barriers, distance from cancer and RT centres, financial barriers, lack of awareness and understanding around the benefits of RT. Patients living in rural and remote areas are disparately affected.

Burden of lung and prostate cancer in Australia

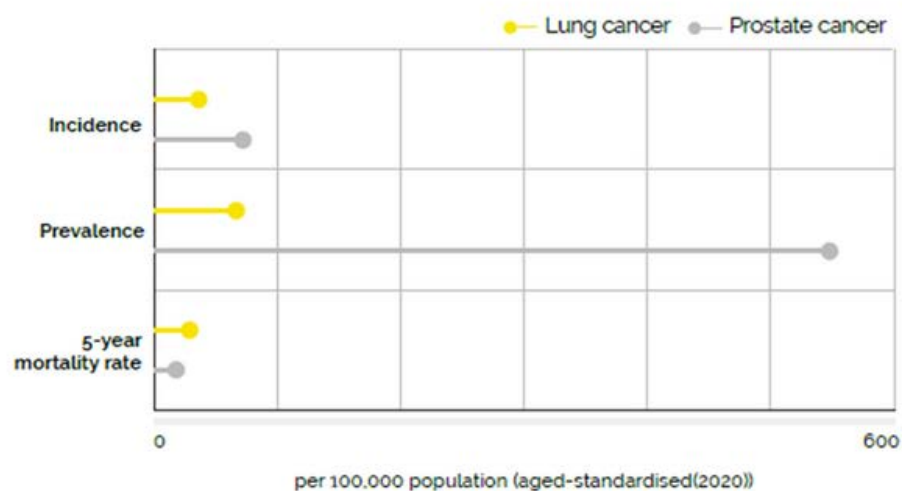


Figure 1: Burden of lung and prostate cancer in Australia

To increase RT utilisation in Australia, the following recommendations were presented in the Evohealth report:

- Establish geographic nodes to ensure equitable access to best practice RT treatment for all Australians: the regional nodes will coordinate patient care, ensure access to an established multidisciplinary team for their region and bring together existing programs and services in a targeted way that enables optimal care pathways inclusive of RT.
- Ensure all patients and clinicians are aware of the benefits and impact of modern RT: treatment through targeted campaigns:

to educate patients and primary care providers about the clinical and quality of life benefits of contemporary RT treatment.

- Support a national directory of travel and accommodation for those needing to travel for cancer treatment: the directory should include available services provided in each state and territory and provide simple guidance on eligibility.

Contributed by: Lutfun Hossain

Source: Evohealth (2022), Shining a light: Radiotherapy for cancer in Australia, Evohealth.

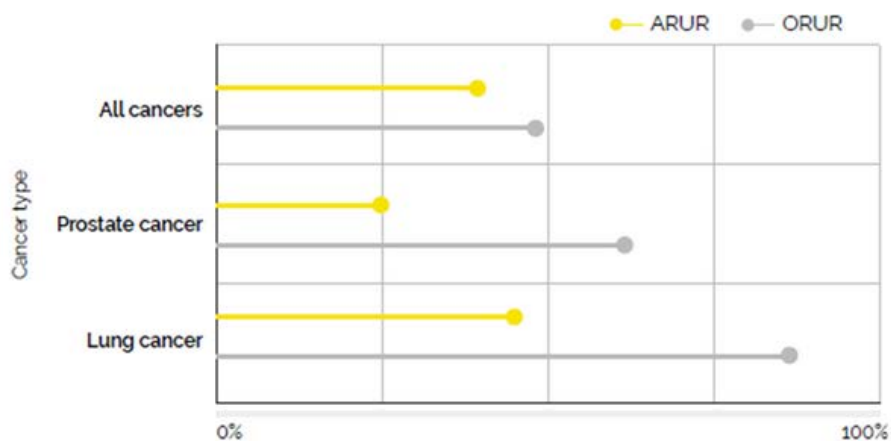


Figure 2: RT utilisation in prostate and lung cancer.

ARUR = actual radiotherapy utilisation rates; ORUR = optimal radiotherapy utilisation rates.

Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association (ANZSA)

Annual Scientific Meeting

Registrations for the 2023 ANZSA Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) are now open! The event offers both in-person and online attendance for all who wish to attend.

The 2023 ASM will take place on the **10th - 11th of November** in **Melbourne** at the **Sofitel on Collins**, with an online option available to all registrants who cannot attend in person.

This is a chance to hear from researchers and sarcoma specialists — from both Australia and New Zealand as well as from around the world — about the research they have conducted. This year, we welcome the following international guest speakers to our event:

- **Prof. Jason Hornick**
 - Professor of Pathology, Harvard Medical School (Boston, United States of America)
- **Prof. Ajay Puri**
 - Professor and Head of Department of Surgery, Tata Memorial Hospital (Mumbai, India)

Find the full program and registrations details on our website.

<https://sarcoma.org.au/ASM2023>

Sarcoma Guidelines

The second series in the ANZSA Sarcoma Guidelines have now been released, adding new topics of focus to the existing guidelines. The guidelines working party – led by Professor Angela Hong – have completed the systematic review of six new questions which include the role of radiation therapy, biopsy and chemotherapy in retroperitoneal sarcomas alongside other topics. The new questions being included in the guidelines are:

- Topic 2 Q1 - What is the role of radiation therapy in the management of primary retroperitoneal sarcomas?



- Topic 2 Q2 - Does multi-visceral resection improve outcomes for patients with primary retroperitoneal sarcoma outcomes?
- Topic 2 Q3 - Role of Biopsy in retroperitoneal sarcoma? Safety, accuracy?
- Topic 2 Q4 - Role of chemotherapy in primary retroperitoneal sarcoma according to histologic subtype
- Topic 3 Q2 (a) - Does the addition of high-dose chemotherapy have an impact on outcome of Ewing sarcoma compared to standard chemotherapy alone? in first line (a)? In relapse (b)?
- Topic 3 Q2 (b) - Does the addition of high-dose chemotherapy have an impact on outcome of Rhabdomyosarcoma compared to standard chemotherapy alone? in first line (a)? In relapse (b)?

The guidelines development is an ongoing process and recommendations for other key questions will be released in the future as the working party continues to appraise evidence for the rest of the topics. This series will be updated as new evidence becomes available and at a minimum of every five years.

Find the new guidelines here:

<https://sarcoma.org.au/pages/sarcoma-guidelines>



FEEDBACK

CREST ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

CREST is currently gathering feedback to help improve our current suite of services.

We have developed the following survey and would greatly appreciate your feedback.

There are 8 questions and should only take a few minutes to complete.

All your responses will be treated in confidence.

[SURVEY](#) >

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Psycho-oncology Cooperative Research Group (PoCoG)

The 2023 Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group (PoCoG) 2023 Scientific Meeting at the Crown Plaza in Melbourne is rapidly approaching on **31 October**.

Our meeting happens the day before the COSA Scientific Meeting and is a great opportunity to hear new research in psycho-oncology and supportive care, and catch up with old friends!

The theme for this year's meeting is **Sustainability in Psycho-oncology** and each session has been designed to address an aspect of this topic.

In response to requests from previous participants we have also scheduled a whole session for peer-reviewed abstract presentations.

Session 1. Community based models of care and how they are changing

- Working towards best practice in supportive care. **Kathryn Huntley** - Leukaemia Foundation
- Research collaboration and translation in ovarian cancer: Addressing unmet need via specialised, tumor specific psychosocial support. **Hayley Russell** - Ovarian Cancer Australia
- Improving opportunities, equity and access for sarcoma patients. **Mandy Basson** - Sock it to Sarcoma

Session 2. Abstract presentations

A full session of peer-reviewed abstract presentations, showcasing the best of the best new research in psycho-oncology.

Session 3. The role of new interventions in optimising cancer care: Implications for psycho-oncology

- PSMA Theranostics: Improving Quality of Life and Survival. **Dr James Buteau** - Peter MacCallum Centre
- Drug repurposing – fast and cost-effective discovery of new cancer treatments with unexpected challenges. **Professor Nikola Bowden** - University of Newcastle



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- Discrete Choice Experiments: The why, when and how. **A/Professor Richard De Abreu Lourenco** - University of Technology Sydney.

Session 4. Tailored vs general models of care

- Tailoring in practice: Formulation and delivery of psycho-oncology care. **A/Professor Lisa Beatty** - Flinders University
- Harnessing the potential of digital mental health for depression and anxiety: Do tailored or general approaches work best? **Professor Jill Newby** - University of NSW
- Recognising and supporting carers experiencing distress: The urgent need for tailored psychosocial support for cancer carers. **Dr Rebekah Laidsaar-Powell** - University of Sydney
- Moderated panel discussion. **A/Professor Haryana Dhillon** - University of Sydney.

If you are interested in attending you can [buy your ticket here](#).

PoCoG Cancer Carers Special Interest Group

In other news we recently established a new special interest group for researchers and health professionals with an interest in informal carers of people with cancer.

As we know, providing care and support to a family member / friend with cancer is a significant responsibility which can impact on patient outcomes, health services, and the wellbeing of carers themselves.

This new special interest group has been formed to bring together the community of professionals interested in cancer carers to increase networking, build and share knowledge, and form collaborations to progress cancer carer research, policy, and practice.

If you are interested in joining this group email pocog.office@sydney.edu.au and we will add you to the membership list.



Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group

Thoracic Oncology Group Australasia (TOGA)

“Shifting The Dial Forward in Lung Cancer Care: It Takes a village” Highlights of the 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting

The TOGA 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting highlighted that it truly takes a village to treat lung cancer as it showcased the latest research in immuno- and targeted therapy, thoracic surgery, respiratory medicine, palliative and supportive care, and radiation therapy.

This year’s hybrid event comprised consumers and healthcare professionals from all levels of specialisation and disciplines. The meeting goal was to educate on the latest advancements in thoracic cancer care and to foster collaborations that are needed for a multidisciplinary approach to improve thoracic cancer outcomes.



ASM2023 Convenor, A/Prof Zarnie Lwin opened the meeting

The opening plenary lecture was given by Professor Karen Kelly, who took us on a tour-de-force of the evolution of immunotherapy from the beginnings of mono immunotherapy and initial trials of using two immune checkpoint inhibitors, to the development of tailored combination therapy for populations with PD-L1 <50% or PD-L1 >50%.

The second plenary presentation was given by Prof Stephen Swisher, who further built on the presentation by Prof Kelly by highlighting the state of immunotherapy in the context of surgery in NSCLC. Prof Swisher presented findings from trials that demonstrated the benefits of adjuvant immunotherapy and the evolving role of neoadjuvant immunotherapy in thoracic cancer treatment.



Professor Karen Kelly CEO of IASLC and Professor Emeritus at University of California, Davis presenting the opening plenary lecture.

Professor Tom Calma, AO, gave a fascinating overview of the current strategies being employed to tackle smoking and vaping in the Indigenous population in Australia given the significant disparities between indigenous Australians compared to non-indigenous Australians with lower life expectancy and worse health outcomes in the indigenous population.

“The Great Debate- AI will take over lung cancer management in the future”, a fun and lively discussion hosted by Mr Stephen Barnett. The debate was a joyful way to close the ASM where the participants tried to present the positives and negatives of the future of Artificial Intelligence in lung cancer management through poetry, costumes, theatre and animation.

The Best Poster and New Investigator awards which aimed to reward candidates with outstanding research and presentation skills were given to Dr Joe Wei and Dr Mara Zeissig, respectively. We congratulate all presenters on the outstanding presentation quality.

Contributed by: Zoran Boskovic



Undoubtedly, one of the biggest surprise highlights was,



TOGA ASM 2023 presenters from L to R- Dr Fiona Hegi- Johnson, Prof Stephen Swisher and A/Prof Steven Kao

Recap of CREST consumer workshop

On Friday, 15 September 2023, CREST hosted the, 'Health economics in cancer research: a consumer's guide' at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). It was facilitated by CREST staff, A/Prof. Richard De Abreu Lourenco and Lutfun Hossain.

This in-person workshop was attended by consumers and community representatives from: ALLG, ANZGOG, ANZSA, ANZCHOG, BCT, CST, PC4 and TROG. Together, facilitators and participants delved into how health economics fits within clinical trials and the vital role play in shaping economic evaluations.

There was a wealth of experience in the room which added to the great discussions, questions and engagement.

Thank you to all who attended!



Newsletter feedback and suggestions

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